

Victim Offender Mediation

Program description:

In this broad grouping of programs, the underlying characteristic is that the victim and the offender sit down together with a trained mediator in order to determine appropriate restitution for the harm done. The types of offenders, criminal justice setting, and degree of support to the victim and/or offender vary.

Typical age of primary program participant: 15

Typical age of secondary program participant: N/A

Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes Measured	Primary or Secondary Participant	No. of Effect Sizes	Unadjusted Effect Sizes (Random Effects Model)			Adjusted Effect Sizes and Standard Errors Used in the Benefit-Cost Analysis					
						First time ES is estimated			Second time ES is estimated		
			ES	SE	p-value	ES	SE	Age	ES	SE	Age
Crime	P	6	-0.09	0.06	0.13	-0.06	0.06	15	-0.06	0.06	25

Benefit-Cost Summary

The estimates shown are present value, life cycle benefits and costs. All dollars are expressed in the base year chosen for this analysis (2011). The economic discount rates and other relevant parameters are described in Technical Appendix 2.	Program Benefits					Costs	Summary Statistics			
	Parti- pants	Tax-payers	Other	Other Indirect	Total Benefits		Benefit to Cost Ratio	Return on Invest- ment	Benefits Minus Costs	Probability of a positive net present value
	\$1,012	\$1,080	\$1,580	\$532	\$4,205		\$7.27	46%	\$3,626	95%

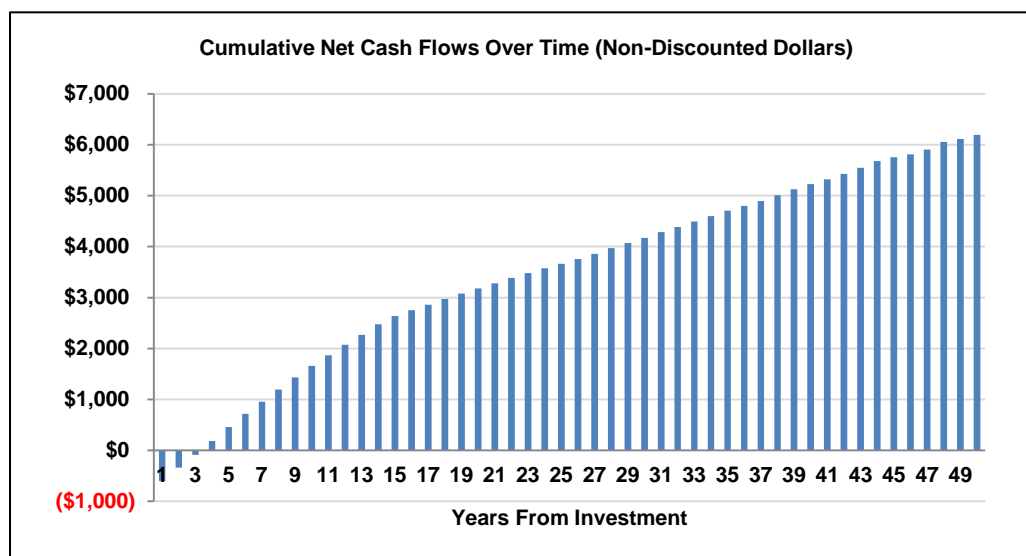
Detailed Monetary Benefit Estimates

Source of Benefits	Benefits to:				
	Parti- pants	Tax- payers	Other	Other In- direct	Total Benefits
Crime	\$0	\$561	\$1,685	\$277	\$2,523
Earnings via high school graduation	\$1,030	\$379	\$0	\$186	\$1,596
Health care costs via education	-\$18	\$140	-\$105	\$69	\$86

Detailed Cost Estimates

The figures shown are estimates of the costs to implement programs in Washington. The comparison group costs reflect either no treatment or treatment as usual, depending on how effect sizes were calculated in the meta-analysis. The uncertainty range is used in Monte Carlo risk analysis, described in Technical Appendix 2.	Program Costs			Comparison Costs			Summary Statistics	
	Annual Cost	Program Duration	Year Dollars	Annual Cost	Program Duration	Year Dollars	Present Value of Net Program Costs (in 2011 dollars)	Uncertainty (+ or - %)
	\$565	1	2010	\$0	1	2010	\$578	10%

Source: The Washington State Institute for Public Policy estimated the costs of victim offender mediation based on the literature reviewed. We also received a cost estimate from the victim offender mediation program in Clark County Washington. Our final cost estimate is the average of these two costs. The cost includes staff time, benefits, and volunteer time.



Multiplicative Adjustments Applied to the Meta-Analysis

Type of Adjustment	Multiplier
1- Less well-implemented comparison group or observational study, with some covariates.	1.00
2- Well-implemented comparison group design, often with many statistical controls.	1.00
3- Well-done observational study with many statistical controls (e.g., instrumental variables).	1.00
4- Random assignment, with some implementation issues.	1.00
5- Well-done random assignment study.	1.00
Program developer = researcher	0.36
Unusual (not "real-world") setting	0.50
Weak measurement used	0.80

The adjustment factors for these studies are based on our empirical knowledge of the research in a topic area. We performed a multivariate regression analysis of 96 effect sizes from evaluations of adult and juvenile justice programs. The analysis examined the relative magnitude of effect sizes for studies rated a 1, 2, 3, or 4 for research design quality, in comparison with a 5 (see Technical Appendix B for a description of these ratings). We weighted the model using the random effects inverse variance weights for each effect size. The results indicated that research designs 1, 2, and 3 should have a multiplier greater than 1 and research design 4 should have a multiplier of approximately 1. Using a conservative approach, we set all the multipliers to 1.

In this analysis, we also found that effect sizes were statistically significantly higher when the program developer was involved in the research evaluation. Similar findings, although not statistically significant, indicated that studies using weak outcome measures (such as technical violations) were higher.

Studies Used in the Meta-Analysis

- Luke, G., & Lind, B. (2002, April). *Reducing juvenile crime: Conferencing versus court* (Crime and Justice Bulletin: Contemporary Issues in Crime and Justice No. 69). Sydney, New South Wales, Australia: New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.
- McCold, P., & Wachtel, B. (1998, May). *Restorative policing experiment: The Bethlehem Police Family Group Conferencing Project*. Pipersville, PA: Community Service Foundation.
- McGarrell, E. F., & Hipple, N. K. (2007). Family group conferencing and re-offending among first-time juvenile offenders: The Indianapolis experiment. *Justice Quarterly*, 24(2), 221-246.
- Schneider, A. L. (1986). Restitution and recidivism rates of juvenile offenders: Results from four experimental studies. *Criminology*, 24(3), 533-552.
- Shapland, J., Atkinson, A., Atkinson, H., Dignan, J., Edwards, L., Hibbert, J., . . . Sorsby, A. (2008, June). *Does restorative justice affect reconviction?: The fourth report from the evaluation of three schemes* (Ministry of Justice Research Series 10/08). Sheffield, United Kingdom: University of Sheffield, Centre for Criminological Research.
- Sherman, L. W., Strang, H., & Woods, D. J. (2000, November). *Recidivism patterns in the Canberra Reintegrative Shaming Experiments (RISE)*. Canberra, ACT: Australian National University, Research School of Social Sciences, Centre for Restorative Justice.